

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS EFIS TQ JA

SUBJ: KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE TUNA MISSION

1. ACCORDING TO ASAHI, JANUARY 12, NINE MAN MISSION OF KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE OFFICIALS AND TUNA FISHING INDUSTRY LEADERS WILL LEAVEFOR TTPI ON JANUARY 18 TO "CONFER WITH PERSONS CONNECTED WITH FISHERIES IN MICRONESIA AND SOUND OUT THEIR POLICY ON THE HANDLING OF FOREIGN FISHING BOATS AND OPERATION WITHIN TTPI TERRITORIAL WATERS." GOJ FISHERIES AGENCY OFFICIAL SAYS GROUP IS NOT BACKED BY TOKYO AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS "NON-OFFICIAL."

2. KAGOSHIMA FISHING COMPANIES ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF JAPANESE TUNA CATCH; ACCORDING TO ASAHI, BOATS FROM KAGOSHIMA TAKE 50 PERCENT OF THEIR CATCH FROM TTPI WATERS. ORGANIZATION OF MISSION IS REPORTEDLY STIMULATED BY FEAR THAT MICRONESIA WILL ESTABLISH 200 NAUTICAL MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND SHUT KAGOSHIMA BOATS OUT OF TRADITIONAL FISHING GROUNDS.

3. SPECIFIC AIMS OF KAGOSHIMA GROUP REPORTEDLY ARE TO: A) SECURE COOPERATION FOR OPERATIONS AND NAVIGATION

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IN TTPI WATERS, "BEFORE SUCH TROUBLE AS JAPANESE

FISHING BOATS' BEING CAPTURED ON THE CHARGE OF VIOLATING THE EXPECTED NEW TERRITORIAL WATERS;" B) FLOAT NOTION OF ORGANIZING KAGOSHIMA-TTPI FISHING JOINT VENTURE; C) FIND OUT IF MICRONESIANS WOULD BE SATISFIED BY PAYMENT OF ROYALTIES IN RETURN FOR FISHING RIGHTS.

4. GROUP IS HEADED BY DIRECTOR SHIRO AZUMA OF PREFECTURAL FISHERIES, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, DIRECTOR KUNIHIKO SHIGENO OF PREFECTURE'S FISHERIES EXPERIMENT CENTER, AND MAKURAZAKI CITY FISHERIES CO-OP CHAIRMAN SHIGERU MATSUO. THEY PLAN TO VISIT SAIPAN, PONAPE AND TURK DURING TWO WEEK PERIOD.

5. ACCORDING TO GOJ FISHERIES AGENCY OFFICIAL, GOJ WOULD BE MOST UNHAPPY IF GROUP WERE TO DESCRIBE ITS PURPOSE AS NEGOTIATION. HE SAYS AGENCY HAS NOT BEEN ASKED BY GROUP FOR ASSISTANCE, AND IMPLIED THAT UNLESS USG WERE TO DECLARE GROUP UNWELCOME, AGENCY IS FOR POLITICAL REASONS NOT ABLE TO PREVENT ITS VISIT TO TTPI. HE ADDED THAT KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT, THOUGH CHARY OF ANYTHING SMACKING OF "INDEPENDENT DIPLOMACY," IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM PANICKY LOCAL FISHING INTERESTS "TO DO SOMETHING."

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES KAGOSHIMA GROUP MAY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH TTPI OFFICIALS OR LOCAL INTERESTS. WE SUGGEST THAT LOW-LEVEL, INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH KAGOSHIMA GROUP IN TTPI MAY BE HELPFUL IN DISPELLING MUTUAL MISAPPREHENSION AND TO SOME SLIGHT EXTENT SERVE TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR FORMAL GOJ-TTPI (OR MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT) NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES AT CONSIDERABLY LATER DATE.

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